

## **Open Session Section: Evaluation, Outcomes, and Research for Farm to School**

1. Conduct literature review of current research
2. Need for research/program evaluation/measurable outcomes:
  - a. Use data in grants
  - b. Determine what tools to use for evaluation/research
  - c. Utilize data to communicate to others and promote programs
  - d. Important to have Montana research and evaluation since decision-makers will give more validity to state rather than national data
  - e. Would encourage both quantitative and qualitative research
  - f. Research and evaluation multiple aspects of health, such as social, food preferences and intake, physical (not just BMI)
3. Possible data that is readily available:
  - a. School nurse may have BMI and other health indicators
  - b. FoodCorps may have some existing data (NCAT-Butte) and perhaps Farm to School may use similar evaluation/research data collection methods which will results in more data and data can be aggregated.
4. Topics of research/evaluation/outcomes:
  - a. Help schools understand the economic benefits and challenges of these programs
  - b. Determine if these programs prevent childhood obesity
  - c. Nutrition and brain development

Submitted by Lynn Paul, August 19, 2012